

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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EAST GERMANS LIVE BETTER

Republic Celebrates Third Anniversary

The people of the German Democratic Republic are buying sixteen per cent more food, clothing and other consumer goods than they did last year, Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau announced on October 7th, third anniversary of the German Democratic Republic.

Anniversary celebrations were marked by the visit to Berlin of a Soviet delegation headed by N. M. Shvernik, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Extra significance was given to this visit by the fact that it was the first time since the formation of the Soviet Union that the head of state had travelled to a foreign country.

Addressing an anniversary meeting in Berlin Shvernik stated:

"In the three years of its existence the German Democratic Republic has shown the whole world that it is determined to follow a policy of peace and democracy, the path of friendship with all peoples.

"The entire domestic and foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic has led to a position in which the peoples who suffered under the Hitlerite aggression have won confidence in the German Democratic Republic."

Announcing the rise in the standard of living Deputy Prime Minister Rau stated that the industrial plan had been fulfilled in all branches in the first nine months of the year and that production was 16 per cent up on last year. Retail trade in foodstuffs and other consumer goods had increased by the same percentage.

High point of the anniversary celebrations was a great demonstration on the Marx Engels Platz in Berlin, former site of the Kaiser's Palace. Miners and foundryworkers in their working kits and agricultural workers riding proudly on huge new reaping-threshing combines recently provided by the Soviet Union was a main feature.

Big contingents of the mobile units of the People's Police, which protect the German Democratic Republic against the danger of attack from the west, and against sabotage directed from West Berlin, marched past in new olive-green uniforms. They received a particularly warm reception from the best workers from all parts of the Republic who crammed the reviewing stands on the Marx Engels Platz.

In Berlin, and in all parts of the German Democratic Republic the holiday was rounded off with dances, concerts and special shows in every town and village.

Scientists, workers and artists who had given distinguished service to the Republic were awarded the National Prize on Republic Day.

(Prize details on p. 7)

STOP PRESS

Startling disclosures about an American-financed plot to "liquidate" West German opposition leaders will be given in a special number of **GERMAN REPORT** to be published on October 15th.

Atoms For West Germany

Planning work for the construction of West Germany's first atomic pile is already well under way, a leading West German scientist disclosed to **GERMAN REPORT** this week.

The first pile will be capable of producing 500 grammes of plutonium annually, and will be fed with uranium mined in West Germany.

Uranium production from West German mines will soon reach the high figure of 9 tons yearly, it was also learned.

All forms of atomic research in Germany are strictly banned under the terms of the Potsdam Agreement.

"SHUT SABOTAGE CENTRES" - SOVIET DEMAND

The many spy and sabotage centres in West Berlin which are tolerated and supported by the western powers, must be closed immediately, General V. I. Chuikov, Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission, demanded in a letter to the three western High Commissioners on October 1st.

The letter gave the names and addresses of five such organisations in the American and British Sectors of Berlin, and gave details of the sabotage and spying carried out by the named organisations in the German Democratic Republic.

"These centres damage both the people of the German Democratic Republic, who suffer from the criminal activities of these gangs, and the people of West Berlin, whose normal life is affected by the security measures which have had to be taken by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic" General Chuikov stated.

"I therefore demand categorically the immediate closing of all espionage, sabotage and terrorist centres, and the ending of their activity directed against the German Democratic Republic and the East Sector of Berlin".

(Full details of General Chuikov's letter on p. 2)

WEST BERLIN AS SPY CENTRE

Soviet Note Disclosures

On October 1st 1952, General V. I. Chulikov, Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission in Germany, sent notes to the three western High Commissioners demanding the immediate closing of spy and terrorist centres which had been established in West Berlin.

"These centres carry on criminal underground activities directed against the German Democratic Republic and the East Sector of Berlin", General Chulikov's note stated.

Trials which had been held recently in Berlin and other towns of East Germany had shown that terrorist gangs had received orders, instructions, and the means of carrying on their criminal activity from groups in West Berlin.

"Evidence given by witnesses showed clearly that the main purpose of these organisations was to carry out crimes which undermined the economy and the peaceful reconstruction work of the German Democratic Republic.

"The crimes included the murder of Activists, mass poisonings, arson, the demolition of public buildings, and attacks aimed at nationally-owned factories and the transport services.

Kidnappers

"The trial against Hoesse, Metz and Co., on May 13th and 14th in Berlin showed that these persons, acting on the orders of the chiefs of the so-called 'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity', had set fire to shops in the East Sector of Berlin, attacked the offices of democratic organisations, and kidnapped Activists, People's Policemen and members of the Free German Youth, taking them by force into West Berlin and there murdering them.

"The trial of Burianek and gang on May 24th and 25th showed that leaders of the 'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity' had commissioned Burianek to carry out such criminal acts as blowing up a railway bridge when a passenger train was crossing, and demolishing the Klingenberg Power Station.

"In August 1952 a terrorist group led by Kaiser and Mueller went on trial in Berlin. The trial disclosed that this group had prepared to destroy a canal lock with the aim of causing a flood which would have devastated many villages and led to great losses. Kaiser, acting under the orders of the leaders of the 'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity' organised in West Berlin the manufacture of bombs, fire-bombs and

poison capsules for use in terrorist attacks.

"In July and August spies from the so-called 'Investigating Committee of Free Jurists' went on trial in Dresden, Halle, Potsdam and other towns. These trials showed that this organisation, which receives assistance from the American authorities, had carried out systematic sabotage acts in factories in the German Democratic Republic, and had sent its agents into the ministries of the German Democratic Republic to collect information on industry."

NIEMOELLER'S VIEW

Pastor Martin Niemoeller, famed West German Protestant leader, stated in an interview:

"I regard this 'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity' as a group of criminals, who instigate other people to work for them although they know that they will be caught and punished."

General Chulikov's letter then gave details of other groups, such as the "Association of Political Refugees from the East", which had, since 1949, established "resistance groups" in East Germany; the "East Bureau of the Christian Democratic Union" which had set up an espionage network; and a group in the editorial offices of the British-licensed newspaper "Telegraph", which used blackmailing methods to recruit agents for espionage.

"The American radio station RIAS which is situated in West Berlin is for all practical purposes one great espionage and sabotage centre. RIAS transmits special programmes for its agents on the way to carry on sabotage and underground work.

"Special workshops have been established in West Berlin to supply agents and spies with equipment. At 106 Kurfuerstendamm, (British Sector) is a laboratory which turns out invisible ink, poisons, small bombs, time-bombs ready fitted in cases, acids for destroying machinery and other such material. A similar workshop is situated at 9 Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse.

"In the course of the trials mentioned above it was clearly proved, both by the accused and by witnesses, that all these criminal organisations are financed by the American espionage service, and receive their instructions from this service. In addition these organisations have

close links with the British and French secret services.

"In a Berlin trial the accused Kaiser publicly admitted that Department IIB of the 'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity', which deals with terrorist acts in the German Democratic Republic, received 20,000 marks monthly from American sources. The same man declared that in November 1951 he, together with other 'experts' had carried out explosive experiments on the American training ground in the Grunewald, West Berlin.

"Here are the addresses of the largest of the spy and diversionist centres active in West Berlin, particularly in the American Sector:

'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity', 2-4 Ernst Ring Strasse; 'Investigating Committee of Free Jurists' 29 Lima Strasse; 'Association of Political Refugees from the East', 81 Hohenzollern Damm; 'East Bureau of the Christian Democratic Union', 4 Reichsstrasse; 'Telegraf' newspaper, 2 Bismarck Platz.

"Although the facts about these crimes and the names of their organisers have long been known, the American, British and French occupation authorities have taken no steps to stop this activity. The chiefs of these criminal gangs, particularly Hildebrandt and Friedenau, play an important part in the public life of West Berlin, and emphasise their close links with the occupation authorities.

Western Support

"All these facts go to show that the American, British and French occupation powers in West Berlin support this criminal activity, which is designed to harm the people of the German Democratic Republic, and to undermine the economy of the German Democratic Republic.

"Such conduct is a gross breach of the rights and duties of the American, British and French authorities in Berlin, which are based upon a Four Power Agreement.

"These centres damage both the people of the German Democratic Republic, who suffer directly from the criminal activities of these gangs, and the people of West Berlin, whose normal life is affected by the security measures which have had to be taken by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic.

"I therefore demand categorically the immediate closing of all espionage, sabotage and terrorist centres, and the ending of their activity directed against the German Democratic Republic and the East Sector of Berlin.

"I request that I may be informed of the steps taken."

Democratic Germany Celebrates Its Birthday

By the Editor

Berlin, October 7th — The people of East Germany were celebrating today. And they had something worth celebrating: the third anniversary of the formation of the German Democratic Republic.

On October 7th 1949 I had the privilege of witnessing the birth of the new state, the first really democratic German state which has ever existed. As a western newspaper correspondent I watched the German People's Council, representing all parties in East Germany, solemnly decide to establish a provisional government.

As we watched the proceedings in one of the few buildings still standing in the almost totally destroyed centre of Berlin, none of the western pressmen, I think, realised the historic importance of the moment. To most of us it seemed just another move in the game of chess which the victorious allies appeared to be playing with Germany.

But some statesman could see, even at that time, the real significance. Generalissimo Stalin telegraphed President Wilhelm Pieck on October 13th 1949:

"The formation of the German democratic peace-loving Republic is a turning point in the history of Europe."

At the time he sent this message East Germany was still suffering greatly from the after-effects of the war which Hitler had launched. All food-stuffs and clothing were still very strictly rationed, shops were bare and life was very hard. The foundations for a better life had been laid by the confiscation of the big Junker estates and by the taking over of the factories of war criminals and nazis, but the effects of these measures could still not be clearly seen.

Many of the people of East Germany were still looking with longing eyes at West Germany, where Marshal Aid had at least filled the shops, even if it

could not fill the stomachs. Remilitarisation and the return to power of war criminals like Krupp and Frick were still concealed in the mists of the future, and the man-in-the-street had not yet realised that Marshal Aid was just an alias for martial aid.

Today the position has radically altered. In East Germany life for ordinary people has reached a higher standard than they enjoyed before the war, and the entire population is cooperating in the construction of Socialism, which will provide everybody with a life really worth living. Unemployment has been abolished, and prices move steadily down while wages move up.

In West Germany millions are unemployed or working short time, prices rise constantly while wages stagnate, and no one can regard the future with confidence.

The men and women of the German Democratic Republic can look back with pride to what they have achieved, but they are not inclined to rest on their laurels. They want all Germans to partake of the better life in a peaceful Germany. In this wish they are joined by all patriots in West Germany.

That is why they struggle for German unity, sovereignty and a peace treaty. The German Democratic Republic has shown that a decent, democratic, peace-loving Germany can be built.

German patriots are doing their part to build it. They do not stand alone in their struggle. As Generalissimo Stalin said in his telegram to Wilhelm Pieck in 1949:

"You need not doubt that advancing along this path and promoting the cause of peace you will find great sympathy and active support among all the peoples of the world, including the American, British, French, Polish, Czechoslovak and Italian peoples, not to mention the peace-loving Soviet people."

Berlin's Housing Plan Goes Well

STALIN ALLEE APARTMENTS NEARLY READY

Only eight months after the laying of the first foundation stone, the first stage of the great house building programme on the Stalin Allee in East Berlin was completed on September 27th.

On this date 80,000 Berliners, most of whom had taken an active part in the building by contributing voluntary labour for rubble clearing, rallied in the Stalin Allee to attend the ceremony marking the completion of the erection work on the first rows of houses.

Friedrich Ebert, Lord Mayor of Democratic Berlin, addressing the crowd, announced that well over 2000 fine new apartments, equipped with the most modern conveniences, would be ready for occupation on the Stalin Allee by Stalin's birthday December 21st. In other parts of Democratic Berlin 3400 other new flats would also be ready this year.

Over half the bricks used in the great construction programme had been salvaged from the rubble by Berliners working over 3 million hours in their spare time. They

shifted nearly half a million tons of rubble from bombed sites which will mostly be built on in the course of the next few months, when the building programme, which only began with the Stalin Allee, really gets into its stride.

German Problem

Conference in Stockholm

Delegates from 14 European countries will meet in Stockholm on October 18th for a four-day conference on the German problem.

The Committee for the Peaceful solution of the German Problem, which summoned the conference, has appealed to parties, unions and religious communities in the countries neighbouring on Germany to help make the conference a success.

Delegates are expected from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Holland, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia as well as from both parts of Germany.

West German Mayor Bans War Preparations

The mayor of Heilbronn in West Germany has stationed police guards on the bridges over the river Neckar in the city to prevent demolition chambers being built in them as part of the West German war preparations.

In a letter to the provincial government, Mayor Meyle stated: "I protest in the name of the town and population against this senseless order to construct demolition chambers. I request the provincial government to protest most strongly to the European Command of the U. S. Forces against this order.

"One of the greatest crimes of the previous regime was the destruction of our homeland and the demolition of bridges. The reconstruction has meant much sacrifice. Are such crimes now to be repeated?"

Bishop Visiting Moscow

Bishop Dibelius, the Evangelical Bishop of Berlin, will visit Moscow next month on the invitation of the Patriarch of Moscow.

PROFILE

PARLIAMENTARY CHAMELEONS

When the West German state was established in September 1949 it was still fashionable to be anti-nazi there, and militarism was still officially unpopular.

This was reflected by the potted autobiographies of the 420 members of the West German Parliament, published in the 1949 edition of the "Handbuch des Deutschen Bundestages", published in Stuttgart. The members furnished their own biographies for the book, and most of them tried to make the most of any sort of anti-nazi record which they had, and to play down their participation in the war, mainly with bleak references such as "Soldier, 1939-45."

Times have changed, and the biographies of many members have shown a significant change in the 1952 edition of the handbook which has just appeared.

In 1949 Dr Thomas Dehler, Minister for Justice and member of the Free Democratic Party had this to say about himself:

"1924 foundation member of the Reichsbanner (Republican, anti-Hitler organisation, ed.) and member of the Democratic Party. From 1933 to 1942 member of an opposition group against Hitler, which was later associated with Dr Goerdeler. Arrested in 1938 and sent to forced labour in 1944... In December 1946 Bavarian state prosecutor in big cases in the political cleansing programme."

By 1952 resistance groups and denazification were obviously outmoded in West German government circles, and Dr Dehler re-wrote his biography, which appeared in these words:

"1923 lawyer (Munich, Bamberg). 1919 Democratic Party. 1945 State Prosecutor... 1946 Bavarian Chairman of the Free Democratic Party."

Similar cuts are to be found in other biographies. Christian Democrat Matthias Mehs, who noted in 1949:

"Arrested following the 20. 7. 44" (date of the abortive anti-Hitler plot, ed.)

crossed out this line in the 1952 edition.

Social Democrat Franz Marx deleted this line from his biography:

"Arrested in May 1933, sent to Dachau Concentration Camp."

and Free Democrat Willi Max Rademacher did the same with the line:

"Politically persecuted between 1933 and 1945."

A double somersault was turned by Wilhelm Mellies, newly elected Deputy Chairman of the Social Democratic Party. In the 1949 edition of the handbook he stated proudly:

"Removed from a teaching post (under Hitler, ed.) for political reasons."

In 1952 things looked quite different and he stated:

"Resigned in 1933 from teaching post on own request."

Members of the Bonn Parliament have not only been busy forgetting their possibly anti-nazi past, but also happily recalling more details of their military past.

Leading Free Democrat Dr Erich Mende, for instance, who has made himself spokesman of the war criminals in recent months, noted shortly in the 1949 edition:

"Participation in Second World War."

By 1952 his memory had improved, and he wrote:

"Military career 1936 — 1945 (Regimental Commander)"

Parliamentary Chairman Dr Hermann Ehlers, of the Christian Democratic Union enlarged on his old entry, which had read:

"Conscripted into the Wehrmacht, 1939. Participant in Second World War."

The new version in the 1952 book stated:

"War participant 1939 — 1945. Battery Commander, Adjutant."

A number of other parliamentarians, including Social Democrat Kurt Pohle, and Gerhard Eibbehaeger of the Zentrum Party made a point of mentioning their careers as soldiers in the new edition, a point which they had overlooked in 1949.

And the Christian Democrat Professor Eduard Wahl from Heidelberg decided that in 1952, when leaders of his party were proclaiming how "honourable" it was to put on a uniform and fight the Russians, he had better change his biography. He struck out this line:

"Forcibly incorporated into the Wehrmacht in 1944 because politically incriminated."

More Top Criminals Released

Former Nazi General Eberhard von Mackensen who was sentenced to death in 1946 for massacring Italian hostages, has been released from Werl Prison in West Germany by the British authorities.

A British official spokesman in Bonn announced on October 2nd that it was "highly unlikely" that top war criminals Erich von Manstein and Albert Kesselring, both former Nazi Field Marshals, would have to return to prison to serve the remainder of their sentences. Both men were provisionally released recently for "medical treatment".

Jail for picketing

Five Hamburg workers, who had helped picket a factory where a strike was in progress, have been sent to prison by a Hamburg, British Zone, court. The five men were sentenced to terms ranging from three to six months for "taking part in a public assembly with intent to commit acts of violence."

In recent months West German courts have pronounced a whole series of anti-union sentences, including the award of damages against a union for calling a strike.

* * *

The central board of the West German Free Democratic Party, one of the parties in the government, is preparing the draft of a new law which would declare all strikes unconstitutional.

Nazi Author in School Book

A West German school reader, published by the educational publishing house "Paedagogische Verlag Schwann" in Düsseldorf, includes passages by Hans Grimm, one of Hitler's favourite authors.

Hans Grimm was the author of "Volk ohne Raum", a book in defence of the Nazi "Lebensraum" theory. He now lives at Lippoldsberg in the British Zone of Germany, and holds regular get-togethers of Nazi authors. At a recent meeting there the chief speaker was Will Vesper, author of a book of poems "Portrait of the Fuehrer".

Jobless Youth

There are 650,000 unemployed in West Germany under the age of 25, according to statistics issued by the West German Trade Union Federation.

"PROTESTANTS SHOULD FIGHT WAR"

East German Appeal

The Protestant Church in Germany should help to fight war propaganda in West Germany by refuting allegations that German prisoners of war are still being retained in the Soviet Union, East German Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau stated in a letter to Herr von Thadden-Trieglaff, Chairman of the Evangelical Church Congress.

The Chairman had addressed letters to the East and West German Governments asking them to use all their efforts to effect the return of German P. O. W. s still held abroad. The reply of the East German Deputy Prime Minister stated categorically that all P. O. W. s had been returned from the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Albania, with the exception of those serving sentences for war crimes.

"There can be no doubt that after the unification of Germany the way will be open for the convicted persons also to return to their homelands" the letter stated.

"Despite these facts the governments of the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and the German Democratic Republic are exposed to a concentrated campaign of hate in the press and radio, a campaign which is supported by the Bonn Government.

"It would be a really Christian step for the maintenance of peace if the Evangelical Church Congress were to take action to bring this campaign to an end.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses its regret that the Evangelical Church Congress did not address the governments responsible with the request that they cease their preparations for imperialist war. These governments are responsible for the fact that new misery and suffering is being prepared to add to what the people had to suffer in the last war.

"It is well known that tens of thousands of young Germans who were in captivity after the war were press-ganged into the French Foreign Legion.

"It is well known that the American occupation authorities seized the Wehrmacht card index of casualties, and has not allowed access to it, despite repeated demands.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic is therefore of the opinion that the Evangelical Church Congress must approach the governments of these countries directly with the request:

- a) that the American Military Government publish the names of the hundreds of thousands of names of fallen Germans contained in this register.
- b) that the French Military Government publish the names of the tens of thousands of German Foreign Legionaries who are falling on the battlefields of Vietnam.
- c) that those press-ganged into the Legion be brought home.
- d) that all recruitment for the Legion on German soil be banned.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic knows that these are demands which will be approved by all peace-loving Christians. The Government of the German Democratic Republic will always give its support to every honest attempt to achieve German unity, and regards as its main task the preservation of peace for Germany, so that the German people and the world may be spared new suffering."

Great Building Programme for Miners

Building is in full swing in the mining areas surrounding Chemnitz, in Saxony, and nearly 3500 new houses and apartments designed specifically for miners will be ready for occupation by the end of the year.

Since 1950 37 new clinics and 11 hospitals for miners have been opened in the area, and eight new sanatoriums, four of which can each accommodate 1000 persons, are almost completed.

Taxes: East and West

Workers pay far lower taxes in East Germany than in West Germany, official statistics show. In West Germany a married man with two children earning 350 marks monthly pays 32.60 marks in taxes. In the German Democratic Republic he pays only 15.20 marks.

ACHESON IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING



1. "Our Government" wants German Unity..."



2. (The Soviet Note on German Unity arrives)



3. "No!"



4. "Where did I stop? ... Ah yes, ... Our Government wants German Unity."

(On August 23rd 1952 the Soviet Government sent notes to the three western powers proposing, once again, that a commission should be set up to investigate the conditions for free elections in Germany as a prelude to German unity and a peace treaty.

"The most objective commission would be one formed with the agreement of the Four Powers by the

Germans themselves, and of Germans — representatives, say, of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic and the West German Federal Parliament," the Soviet Note stated.

This suggestion was flatly rejected by the western powers in a note of reply dated September 23rd. The western note stated such a commission would not be impartial.)

CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL IN E. GERMANY

Law Restores Full Citizenship

The German Democratic Republic has restored civil rights to all former members of the Nazi party and officers, insofar as they are not serving sentences for war crimes.

The law removing the restrictions hitherto placed upon former Nazis was moved on October 2nd in the East German People's Chamber by Ottomar Geschke, 69 year-old anti-fascist who himself spent the entire Hitler period in prison and Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen concentration camps.

Herr Geschke said that he was speaking in the name of all victims of fascism in approving the law. He stated:

"Today many former Nazis and officers are working hard at key-points in our construction plan alongside men who fought in the anti-fascist resistance movement. We shall serve our own people and all nations best when we go forward together now with the aim of maintaining peace."

It has been possible to restore full civil rights to former Nazis, with the exception of sentenced war criminals, in East Germany, because the basis of their former power has been removed, the "Neues Deutschland", organ of the Socialist Unity Party stated.

"A change in social conditions in the German Democratic Republic has brought with it a change in the people" the paper stated. "The overwhelming majority of our population are taking part with great enthusiasm in the work of Socialist construction. The citizens of the German Democratic Republic, without regard to their previous opinions or their present party allegiance are cooperating in our peaceful task of reconstruction."

Reformed Nazis

"Among those who have undergone this great change are the majority of the former officers and former members of the Nazi party. One of the best plasterers' squads on the buildings in the Stalin Allee in Berlin is a former Luftwaffe pilot Fuchs, who has been exemplary in the introduction of new methods of work. The former Nazi party member Wiszniewski has twice been awarded the title of Activist, and leads one of the best steel constructional brigades in the Republic. The former General Lattmann is head of a department in the Ministry of Engineering."

"The new law providing for the removal of all restrictions placed upon former Nazis and officers, and which restores their full civil equality is the concluding step in the consistent policy pursued by our party and our government."

"This policy was based upon the principle of the fight against militarism and fascism. It was not guided by any ideas of 'revenge'. Both theory and experience showed us that the decisive blow in the fight

against fascism and militarism must be directed at their economic roots.

"As a result, monopoly capitalism and the Junker estates were liquidated after the liberation by the Soviet Army. The land reform and the expropriation of the Nazi criminals and war criminals in accordance with the Potsdam agreement provided the decisive foundation for complete democratisation."

Spirit of Peace

"At the same time our schools and universities, our press, radio, art and literature, together with all parties and mass organisations waged consistent warfare against the inhuman and barbaric ideology of fascism. All necessary measures were taken to educate everybody, and particularly the youth, in a spirit of humanity, friendship between nations, and peace."

"Former Nazis guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity were sentenced, but all others, from the very beginning, were given a chance to win back the confidence of the people through their active cooperation in the work of reconstruction."

"The result of this policy has been that the majority of them seized this opportunity, and in the course of this difficult work have moulded themselves into new men. They have made a clean break with the policy of conquest, and stand four-square in the camp of peace and democracy."

Building Socialism

"Just because we acted consistently against the war criminals, and deprived them once and for all of their influence, can we grant all other former Nazis and officers the right to participate fully in the building of Socialism."

"In West Germany the position is quite different. The economic roots of fascism and militarism have not only been left untouched, but on the contrary they have been revived by

Clay, McCloy, Donnelly and Adenauer."

"The Nazis and war criminals were not punished, but were confined in special camps and 'prisons' in which they lived better than the people outside, and it is now planned to let them loose on humanity again, dressed this time in American-European uniforms."

"The lesser members of the Nazi party and many officers, who have no enthusiasm for a new war, were sentenced to pay large fines, were robbed of their jobs, and are now asked in unmistakeable terms to serve as mercenaries in a new war."

Fascist ideology has not only been tolerated by the American occupiers, but even re-inforced by them with the help of new 'theories'. Fascism and ideas of 'revenge' have been placed at the service of the American plans of aggression. Old fascist organisations are appearing publicly once again, and are used in attacks on every peaceful policy."

"In West Germany those former officers and Nazis who have not changed in the least are back in power once again. Those who have changed, and who now support peace and democracy are persecuted, slandered and even murdered."

"In the German Democratic Republic, on the other hand, those who have had a change of heart and who work for peace and democracy, have an equal chance to join in the construction of Socialism. Those who have not changed, who would like to serve Hitler's successors, have been deprived of every chance to bring disaster once again to our people and the people of Europe."

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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A French Journalist Sees Berlin

Unemployment is practically unknown under the Socialist system. It is scarcely possible to exaggerate what an importance this has for a German. On May First I chatted in an East Berlin cafe with a group of people who had taken part in the six-hour May Day parade in the burning sun.

They were discussing the reasons why they preferred living in the East Sector instead of the West. One of them, a white-collar worker, said that he had had tempting offers from the West, but had turned them down because he wanted to stay where he was because of the security.

"The greatest liberty for anyone is to know that he will always have a job" he said. This is a feeling which I think will also affect opponents of the regime.

The social life of the two sectors reflects the difference of the economic climate. In even the dearest restaurants of the East Sector one can get something to eat for 2.50 marks, with the result that the ordinary man in the street goes there sometimes. In West Berlin there is a fairly sharp division of clientele according to the prices charged at the various restaurants.

The same is true of the cafes and bars. There are plenty of dance halls, bars and cafes with relatively low prices in which one can dance and spend the evening in a pleasant atmosphere.

One of the important elements of the political policy of the government of the German Democratic Republic is the encouragement of national culture. This naturally helps to reinforce the appeal for the reunification of the country. In the bookshops one sees the works of Villon, Balzac, Hugo, Fielding and Tolstoy. Main emphasis is placed however upon the great German authors such as Goethe, Schiller and Heine, and the works of these authors appear in popular editions.

On various occasions I watched outbursts of energy and enthusiasm. On May Day for instance thousands of people lined Unter den Linden for six hours to watch the parade. Afterwards they stormed the cafes and restaurants, to drink, to dance and to make a noise. On Easter Monday I watched a huge crowd overflowing the stands at Karlshorst Race Track, watching the racing and using the intervals to applaud the mannequin show put on by the State Stores.

(From "Tribune des Nations", Paris)

NATIONAL PRIZES FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Outstanding men and women from all walks of life were decorated with the National Prize on October 7th, third anniversary of the formation of the German Democratic Republic.

Two groups of miners, the collective group organised by Franz Franke and the Hans Bleisch group were both decorated. Franke, a face worker, devised new methods of work which have led to greatly increased output throughout the industry, and Hans Bleisch led his team to complete in 21 months their ore output for the entire Five Year Plan.

A group of scientists led by Professor Hans Knoell received the prize for greatly increasing penicillin

production, and for constructing the first streptomycin plant in the Republic.

Three veterans of the International Brigade in Spain received the distinction: Erich Weinert, working-class poet and author, honoured for his life's work; Professor Albert Schreiner, for his book on the history of German Foreign Policy; and poet Erich Arendt.

Other prizes were won by composer Ernst Meyer, who spent the war years in Britain; the directors, authors and actors responsible for "The Condemned Village", great film on West German resistance to war preparations; and a group of architects responsible for planning the re-building of the Stalin Allee, Berlin's first Socialist street.

Radio re-organised

The broadcasting system in the German Democratic Republic has been completely reorganised to provide a better and more variegated service for all listeners. Under the new scheme Berlin I will transmit an all-German programme of the highest standard; Berlin II will concentrate in the first place on educational programmes; and Berlin III will give pride of place to concerts. On all three programmes two-thirds of the time will be taken up by musical transmissions.

There are no transmissions in English from any of the transmitters of the German Democratic Republic at present, but for the information of readers who know German or who wish to tune in to concerts, here are the wavelengths of the new services:

Berlin I: 782 kc, 383.6 m; 728 kc, 412.1 m; 800 kc, 375 m; 6115 kc, 49.06 m; 7150 kc, 41.96 m.

Berlin II: 185 kc, 1621.6 m; 1196 kc, 250.8 m; 910 kc, 329.7 m; 1016 kc, 295.3 m.

Berlin III: 1043 kc, 287.6 m; 1484 kc, 202.2 m; 1570 kc, 191.1 m; 9730 kc, 30.83 m.

Barrack-room Humour

West German film-makers are being encouraged to turn out films popularising army life to encourage recruiting for the new Wehrmacht. Titles of films now in the studios include:

"Franky in Civvy-street"
 "Recruits on the Right"
 "Three Soldiers in a Girls' School"
 "The Terror of the Garrison"
 "Regimental Music".

"Press Scandal"

"It is not unusual to hear doubts expressed regarding the advisability of placing orders in Berlin owing to Soviet interference with the movement of goods. Unfortunately headline news in the popular press throughout the world requires an element of danger or scandal. As a result every Soviet pin-prick is reported, whereas the normal flow of goods, free from interference, is not news."

Financial Times, London, September 22nd.

E. Germany Needs More Electricity

Special steps will be taken to step-up the production of electricity in the German Democratic Republic, since this is lagging behind industrial production, Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau told a press conference in Berlin.

"Electricity production has been considerably increased in the past few years, but consumption has grown faster than was planned, since industry and agriculture are producing more than was specified in the Five Year Plan" Rau stated.

Soviet Mining Machinery Arrives

The first Soviet coal combine machine has arrived in East Germany and will soon be working in a mine near Zwickau. The machine, of the type "Donbas I", cuts and loads the coal automatically.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

"The British and American press will set up a lovely howl about this", I said to my neighbour, as we stood on the Marx Engels Platz in Berlin on October 7th, and watched units of the People's Police march by in their new olive-green uniforms.

"Let them scream", said my neighbour, who still bears the scars from many years in Hitler's concentration camps. "Whenever I get goose-flesh hearing about the way the nazis and the Prussian officers are returning to power again in West Germany, then I feel very glad that we have got a well-trained force like that to defend our Republic. Putting it quite personally, I sleep much better for the knowledge that thousands of young workers stand between me and another term in a concentration camp."

New Type Officers

We looked at the central stand a few yards away. There stood the leading officers of the People's Police. They had not got the arrogant well-fed faces of the old-style officers. They could not have, for they were, almost every one, workers who had started their careers at the factory bench.

There was Heinz Hoffman, for instance, worker, anti-fascist veteran, and one time political commissar of the 11th International Brigade in Spain. There were other younger men who had been active since the war in building up the great Free German Youth movement.

And beside them were the representatives of countries which the nazis had invaded and overrun: Shvernik, chairman of the Supreme Soviet; Deputy Prime Minister Fierlinger from Czechoslovakia, and many others.

They were applauding, for they knew that the men now marching would never take part in aggressive war, they knew that fascism and nazism had been swept away from the German Democratic Republic once and for all.

Berlin Blunders

Not all the people who write nonsense about Berlin and East Germany do it from bad motives. I am sure that Mr. Norman Bentwich, for instance, who wrote an article entitled "Two Operas in Berlin" in the "Manchester Guardian Weekly" of August 7th had the best of intentions.

I know Mr Bentwich as a staunch liberal, in the best sense of the word, and he was one of the signatories of the excellent letter opposing the Bonn Treaty which GERMAN REPORT published on September 26th. We disagree on all sorts of things, I am certain, but I am also sure that he is deeply concerned about the preservation of peace, and would not wish to join in the chorus of propaganda against everything "eastern".

Mr Middleton, Meet Mr Cook

(On September 19th a delegation from the East German Parliament visited the West German Parliament in Bonn with proposals for German unity.)

"The fierce popular hatred aroused by the visit of the delegation among the residents of Bonn... the squash of a tomato on the coat of an east German politician... the jeers arising from the cobbled streets of Bonn."

Drew Middleton, "New York Times", September 28th 1952

"And so the East Germans arrived in Bonn to be greeted by a shower of leaflets... in a demonstration which, it must be reported in all honesty, was not entirely spontaneous on the part of outraged and offended citizens of Bonn... There was a strong note of planning and organisation in what was done and in some of the familiar faces of civil servants in the crowds."

Don Cook, "New York Herald Tribune", September 30th 1952

One can only assume that the curious errors in his article are the result of misinformation received from his contacts in West Berlin. He states for instance:

"The Russians do not any longer recognise the visa granted in the name of the Allied Kommandatura, and therefore the (passport) inscription is not valid for their area. You may be challenged at the main entrance to the Eastern sector from the British, at the Potsdamer Platz..."

"The East German guard asks for your identity card or passport; and if you have not a special interzonal pass he may turn you back..."

"I was taken in a car into the Eastern sector by an American officer who had a permit."

Someone has been leading you up the garden path, I am afraid, Mr Bentwich. Any inhabitant of Berlin, the members of the four occupation powers, and persons visiting either half of the city may move perfectly freely within the city boundaries.

Before writing this article I checked with the headquarters of the People's Police to make sure that there were no new regulations which I had not heard of. The official who answered my query laughed when I explained what it was all about, and pointed out that there was a) no such thing as a "special interzonal pass" valid between the two areas of the city; and that b) the American officer could not have had a permit to cross into the East Sector, for there is no such thing.

Ask Eden

I am not asking Mr Bentwich to take my word for it that the position with regard to travel inside Berlin is as I state. The British Foreign Office, if pressed, would probably confirm these facts. And I hope that he asks the "Manchester Guardian Weekly" to print a correction.

If Mr Bentwich should come to Berlin again, I hope very much that he pays me a visit. He will not need any sort of pass or visa, and I should be glad to take an hour or two off, and show him the surging energy which is producing the great new residential area along the Stalin Allee.

Through the Looking Glass

A municipal councillor in the West German town of Aurich has gone through the following experiences in the past week:

He has been suspended by the town council from his employment. His party, the Social Democrats, has set up a commission to expel him.

Rowdies have smashed the windows of his house.

What was his crime? He had informed the police of the whereabouts of a nazi war criminal who had escaped from Werl Prison. The criminal Wilhelm Kappe, was serving a sentence of 21 years imprisonment for murdering a prisoner of war in 1941.